

**From:** Leonard Dudzinski  
**To:** microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,attorney.gener...  
**Date:** 11/21/01 11:32am  
**Subject:** A proposal to stop Microsoft

To the States Attorneys General,

I want to begin by thanking you for your courage and judgment in continuing to prosecute Microsoft for its antitrust abuses even as other states and the Federal government have proposed a settlement with Microsoft that, in my opinion, does nothing to stop a very dangerous monopoly. To make matters worse, the settlement that I am hearing about today to allow Microsoft to give free software to poor school districts actually increases Microsoft's monopoly power by increasing Microsoft's user base, training a new generation of Microsoft-only users, and disadvantaging Microsoft's competitors in the education market!

I have been pondering the Microsoft case currently being tried by the US Department of Justice and your states Attorneys General, and thinking about what solution I would favor. I have an idea for how the DOJ could deal with Microsoft that I have not heard discussed as one of the options, and I am grateful that your State Department of Justice has opened this forum to share ideas on the case. I strongly believe that the ruling is correct that Microsoft's monopoly was gained illegally and hurts consumers. Microsoft has clearly demonstrated the willingness to wield its monopoly power to benefit itself at the expense of others. Microsoft's monopoly power must be ended. I also strongly believe that, especially during these times of war, it is not in the state or federal governments best interest to be reliant on one computing platform for its function and national security. Recent events have demonstrated that one computing platform can be devastated by hackers or viruses, while others are immune. My proposed remedy is this: rule that your government must support multiple computer platforms, operating systems, and software suites in the interest of government security and in support of the free market.

While the Judicial Branch does not have the power to dictate the market in a free market economy, it does have the power to affect how the government responds to it. A DOJ ruling that the government must foster competition in the computer marketplace where possible, would be fair, effective, and within its powers. To that end, and in the interest of government security, an executive order could be issued that the government will support multiple computer platforms, operating systems, and productivity software suites, and no single computer platform, operating system, or suite of software will hold greater than a 50% market share within the government (The government market share percentage could be debated). This ruling would create an immediate demand for Microsoft's competition within the states and federal government, and with all those who deal computationally with these governments, which, I would think, is a large part of the computer market as a whole. Thus, this ruling would have the effect of

destroying Microsoft's power to monopolize the market while preserving the company and its products. This ruling would have the additional effect of driving the computer industry towards standards to improve interoperability between platforms, operating systems, and standard software suites, which benefits all consumers. Microsoft would then be forced to play fair with its competitors products and standards.

I welcome comments on the idea.

Respectfully,

Leonard A. Dudzinski  
Concerned US Citizen

Leonard A. Dudzinski  
270 Windward Dr  
Elyria, OH 44035

e-mail: Leonard3@Mac.com  
LDudzinski@Excite.com

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<http://inbox.excite.com>

**CC:** Microsoft ATR,Leonard3@Mac.com@inetgw